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January 17, 2011

## VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* in WC Docket No. 02-60  
Brazos Valley Council of Governments**

Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, we hereby provide notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above captioned proceeding. On January 13 and 14, 2011, Tom Wilkinson, Executive Director of the Brazos Valley Council of Governments, and Jack Buckley, Principal, Jack Buckley and Associates (a healthcare consultant), along with Lou Lehrman of Fabiani & Company and undersigned counsel, met separately with Angela Kronenberg, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Clyburn; Margaret McCarthy, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Copps; Brad Gillen, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Baker; and Trent Harkrader, Division Chief, Attorney Advisors Jamie Susskind, Cindy Spiers, Divya Shenay, and Chin Yoo in the Telecommunications Access Policy Division of the Wireline Competition Bureau, and Kerry McDermott, Health Care Director, Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis.

We discussed a number of issues relating to the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in the above-referenced docket (FCC 10-125, rel. July 15, 2010). Specifically, we discussed the urgent need for increased broadband connectivity in the Brazos Valley region of Texas – lack of connectivity in such areas continues to be a critical problem, particularly as the

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nation seeks to effectively implement electronic health records and as the Commission ushers in Next Generation 911. We reviewed the scope of a proposed health network to be built and managed by Brazos 2020 Vision, Inc., a non-profit corporation, and discussed how this network could provide much needed connectivity beginning as soon as 12 months from when funding is committed.

We also discussed the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking including the need for the Commission to move forward with the proposed health infrastructure program. We discussed the importance of infrastructure program rules allowing installation of excess capacity by eligible health entities care and how such excess capacity is critical to efficient network design, network sustainability, and ultimately ensuring such networks require a one-time only federal investment. We discussed evidence suggesting excess capacity will benefit the larger rural community in part by making wholesale capacity available to rural local exchange carriers and cooperatives that can use low-cost excess capacity to reach more of their customers and provide them with better services.

A copy of our presentation slides is enclosed. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact undersigned counsel directly.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Mitchell  
Counsel for Brazos Valley  
Council of Governments

Enclosure

cc: Brad Gillen, Esq.  
Margaret McCarthy, Esq.  
Angela Kronenberg, Esq.  
Jamie Susskind, Esq.  
Kerry McDermott